(c) Government continuously monitor threats to India's security and territorial integrity and take appropriate steps to deal with them.

(d) and (e) Government have been apprising the international community about Pakistan's continued support and sponsorship of cross border terrorism directed against India, and its being an epicentre of international terrorism. Many countries have repeatedly called upon Pakistan to put an end to cross border terrorism and infiltration; to dismantle the infrastructure of support to terrorism; and to stop acting as a platform for international terrorism.

Talks between India and Canada

1008. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently India and Canada have decided to formalize Ministerial level talks on a yearly basis;

(b) if so, what are the areas of cooperation;

(c) whether Canada has announced any financial grant in the educational and health sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) During the visit of Canadian Prime Minister Mr. Jean Chretien to India in October 2003, India and Canada decided to formalize their Foreign Minister-level dialogue, which will now take place annually. The dialogue will include cooperative activities in bilateral and multilateral areas of mutual interest.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

Foreign direct investment in Iraq

1009. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Iraq is seeking foreign direct investment

and /or through joint ventures in food, power and other infrastructure projects;

(b) if so, whether India has responded thereto;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) A set of rules and regulations to attract foreign direct investment in Iraq has been announced. Government of India has not received any specific request for direct foreign investment or joint ventures.

(b) to (d) Indian business community particularly CII & FICCI are aware of it.

Role of UN in Iraq

1010. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether recently UN General Assembly came out in favour of the United Nations playing a more significant role in Iraq; and

(b) if so, the precise stand taken by India about UN intervention in Iraq and response of the UN General Assembly thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) The issue of the U.N. playing a more significant role in Iraq has not come up before the U.N. General Assembly. However, the U.N. Security Council adopted Resolutions 1483 (on 22 May 2003) and 1511 (on 16 October 2003) affirming that the U.N. should play a vital role in Iraq, including in areas like provision of humanitarian relief, economic reconstruction and advancement of efforts to restore and establish institutions of representative Government in Iraq.

(b) India has welcomed both these resolutions since they envisage a vital role for the U.N. in the post-war rebuilding of Iraq; reaffirm the sovereignty of Iraq and mark a positive step towards the restoration of sovereignty to the Iraqi people.